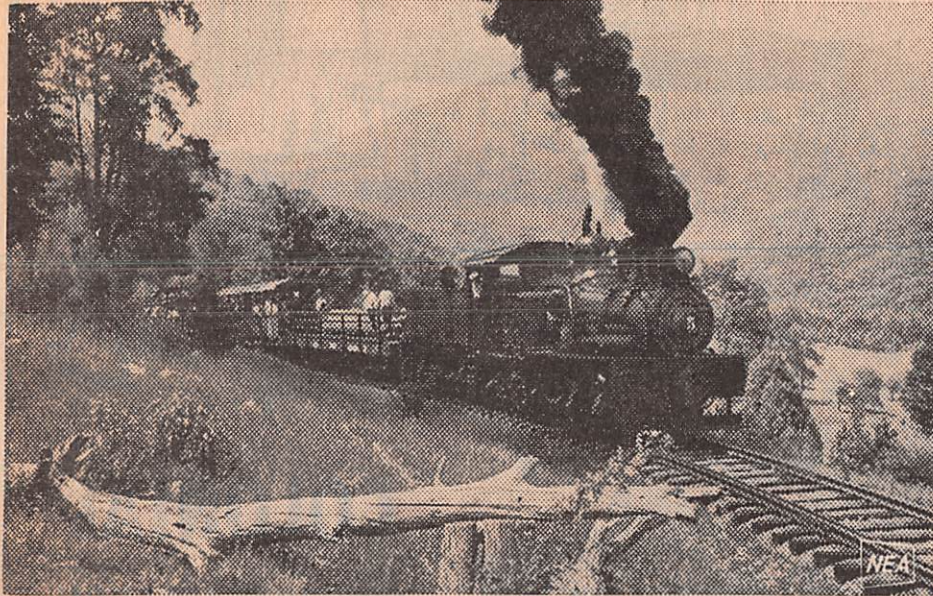


Travel-Recreation

West Virginia's Unsullied Beauty Beckons I've-Seen-It-All Tourist



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD is a popular state-owned tourist center in West Virginia. Addition of another 100 miles of a now-operating coal and lumber railway has been proposed.

Provo Herald Nov 1970
By JIM CROSSLEY

What does the public want from its state's parks and recreation system?

Most important is simply those wide open spaces. At least, that's West Virginia's conclusion from its experience.

Close to four million persons this year will make some use of the state parks and national forests lying within the state's boundaries.

Those states which don't have them should know, in addition, that the public really appreciates the nine state lodges in the parks. Parks cabins, too. The

"standing room only" sign is up far in advance of peak-season months.

These facts are derived from a park system that is used primarily by state residents. (For example, resident fishing licenses totaled 205,383 last year against 32,896 nonresident.) Narrow, mountainous roads have acted as a deterrent to tourism. West Virginia, still a vast treasury of beautiful forests, has a great future in recreation. It lies on the doorstep of 55 per cent of the nation's population. Within a few years, up-and-over interstate highways will grid the state and the bonanza will be discovered.

The up-and-coming Department of Commerce is vitally involved. With encouragement and backing from Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr., tourism is becoming an important state industry. Already, travel supports some 29,000 jobs and generates \$417 million in business each year. It rivals mining and forest products in importance.

In addition to bread-and-butter recreational attractions, the state has some highly unusual ones which are well patronized.

... A state-owned railway, Cass Scenic (a Shay locomotive logging operation saved from oblivion), lures 75,000 people annually up narrow mountain roads to its forest location.

... Harpers Ferry, in the process of restoration to its condition in John Brown's day, has well over a million visitors. It is fast becoming a shrine in the name of racial equality.

... Greenbrier Hotel, at the opposite end of the scale, is a private enterprise that Gen. Robert E. Lee would still be proud of. It traces its history to the days when southern society soaked its ills in the White Sulphur Springs long before

Road Design Still Under Study; CC View Outlined

Sun. Herald 11-1-70

Specific alignment of the proposed new Provo Canyon highway in some sectors is still under review, including the Rotary Park-city springs area where no firm decision on crossing of the springs or alternative possibilities has been made pending added study, according to District 6 state highway officials.

Meantime, in a resolution released recently, Provo Chamber of Commerce officials outlined their position supporting the proposed road with the understanding that insofar as possible, all the natural scenic and recreational features of the canyon be preserved.

The resolution noted that a better highway through the

canyon will be needed in the near future "to safely accommodate the increased traffic"; that the state highway department has carefully studied immediate and long-range needs and provided funds for initial phases of the highway; that several interested local agencies have been consulted in discussion of the highway design and the department is still working to perfect the plan; that public hearings were held at which the majority present supported the road; and that care is being taken in the planning to protect culinary water springs and interfere "as little as possible" with scenic and natural features of the canyon.